

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

---

**THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY.** A Systematic Handbook for Practitioners, Students and Hospital Surgeons. By W. H. A. JACOBSON, M.B., F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to, and Teacher of Operative Surgery in, Guy's Hospital; Surgeon to the Royal Hospital for Children and Women, London. With One Hundred and Ninety-Nine Illustrations. Octavo, 1000 Pages. P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia.

The author has written this work with the avowed intention of making it more comprehensive in scope and fuller in detail than similar works already published. Even a cursory examination of it would suffice to demonstrate the value and interest which has been given to the work by the excursions and discussions with which nearly every subject is illuminated. Most works on operative surgery may be likened to skeletons; Mr. Jacobson has added flesh and blood to the bones. His illustrations are abundant and clear, his descriptions are concise but full, and his discussions of the merits of the different operative measures described are judicial, and his conclusions usually supported and illustrated by a large experience. Current surgical literature has been thoroughly traversed by the author, who presents in this volume information of a multitude of surgical procedures that hitherto were not to be found by the student except in periodical literature. As a fair sample of Mr. Jacobson's methods, Chapter X, on Removal of the Tongue, may be taken. First is briefly considered what the author terms "a precancerous stage," a stage of unknown and variable duration, in which inflammatory changes only are present, but on which epithelioma inevitably supervenes. In this stage operative attacks of quite limited extent will suffice to eradicate the trouble and secure against recurrence. Next are discussed, under the head of "Questions arising before Operation," the two questions, will the disease be permanently cured by operation; and, if a permanent cure is impossible, will life be bettered and prolonged? In answer, it is acknowledged that past statistics show but 10 to 13 per cent of permanent cures. But

such results are attributed largely to delay in operating; therefore early operations are urged, and especially when the limited extent of the disease makes possible its total eradication with the removal of a lateral half of the tongue. Even if the case has become advanced to such a stage as to make permanent cure impossible, the author would still advise operation as full of promise in the direction of alleviating suffering and prolonging life. There follow then detailed descriptions of Whitehead's Syme's and Kocher's methods of extirpation of the tongue and also the method by the use of the *écraseur*. The latter method the author very justly condemns, giving good reasons for his opinion. In this he is certainly in harmony with the tone of modern surgery which has generally relegated the *écraseur* to a place in ancient history. The three first named methods of operation the author properly says give a choice which will enable the surgeon to meet any case of tongue cancer. In general Jacobson prefers the Whitehead method of operating, that is, through the mouth, cutting with scissors, and checking haemorrhage as it occurs. He departs from the exact method advocated by Mr. Whitehead by recommending a preliminary laryngotomy and tamponment of the fauces, and by slitting the tongue longitudinally first so as to enable him to remove half at a time. He rejects preliminary ligature of the lingual arteries, first, because in his experience it does not prevent troublesome haemorrhage, second, because it is quite practicable to control haemorrhage without it, and third, because it takes much time, needlessly prolonging and complicating the operation. In connection with this matter of preliminary ligature of the linguals, Jacobson casually alludes to a most important point in connection with operation for tongue-cancer, viz., the detection and removal of diseased glands. The allusion is so brief, and in such a connection, that the reader would be likely to be misled as to the importance of the subject. The inference from the connection is that the author does not systematically remove the submental and submaxillary lymphatic glands after removing cancer of the tongue unless they are already sufficiently enlarged to be felt notably by palpation through the overlying tissues. He says "if they are to be removed, then etc." Kocher's method, by lateral infra-maxillary incision, though acknowledged by the author to possess the merits of exposing for examination the connective tissue of the neck, thus bringing to the attention of the surgeon infected glands that would otherwise have escaped detection, and also enabling the surgeon to attack with greater facility the posterior part of the tongue, has not been employed in any

case by him. He has operated in twenty-three cases, in all by the Whitehead method; only one case died from the operation.

How many remained permanently cured is not stated, but from the fact that he does not amend the statistics of others which give but 10 and 13% of permanent cures, and from the fact that he states that permanent recovery is doubtful in any case in which ulceration has persisted for longer than three months, and well nigh certainly hopeless if it has persisted for over six months, if more than one-third of the tongue is invaded, or if the floor of the mouth is invaded, it is evident that the ultimate results of the Whitehead operation are not very encouraging. To the reviewer it seems indisputable that better results from operations for tongue cancer can be obtained, and that the way to attain them, in addition to earlier attacks, is by removing large portions of the organ, and by a thorough extirpation in all cases of the chain of lymphatics in immediate relation to it. From this point of view the Whitehead operation is defective, and, though entailing less immediate danger to the patient, must give way to methods more radical, though more immediately dangerous. These thoughts as to the merits of the various methods of operating for cancer of the tongue are not here expressed as any criticism on the work of Mr. Jacobson. They are called out, indeed, by the very fullness with which he describes the various methods of operating.

Turning to another very important subject, that of the radical cure of hernia, a very satisfactory presentation of the recent status of operations for this object is so to be found. Any discussion of operative methods is preceded by a brief reference to the important question of permanency of cure, the subsequent wearing of a truss, the term "radical" cure, and the age best adapted to operations. Of operations the method by the injection of astringens—the Heaton method, for instance—receives no endorsement, and is merely mentioned with the statement that he has no space to give to a detailed description of it; the subcutaneous methods of Wood and Spanton are quite fully described, but most prominence and full endorsement is given to methods involving open incisions. The procedures of Banks, Macewen, Barker and Ball are each fully described. It would obviously be impossible, in a work of a general character, to describe all the various modifications that have been proposed for the radical cure of hernia. It is a field in which active experiment is now going on, and the time is still too short since this class of work began to be done for any one special method to

have secured for itself general recognition as the one most worthy of confidence.

These two examples must suffice to show the methods of Mr. Jacobson in his most valuable work. His book is divided into six parts, devoted respectively to operations on the upper extremity, the head and neck, the thorax, the abdomen, the lower extremity and the vertebral canal, with an appendix for the pericardium. The book is sure to be often referred to by every surgeon who may become its possessor.

L. S. PILCHER.

---

SURGICAL HANDBOOK FOR THE USE OF PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS.

By FRANCIS M. CAIRD, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed. and CHARLES W. CATHCART, M.B., F.R.C.S. Eng. and Ed., Assistant Surgeons, Royal Infirmary, Edinburg. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1889.  
12mo., pp. 262.

The general plan of this little book is excellent, and embraces several features not usually found in works of this kind. Among these may be noticed two excellent chapters on emergency cases, including the treatment of poisoning, and a chapter on extraordinary appliances and civil ambulance work in which are contained full instructions for the formation of ambulance classes, and the syllabus of lectures issued by the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association. Bandaging is taught in an exceptionally thorough and comprehensive manner, the directions being notably explicit and emphasized by excellent wood cuts. The chapters on antisepsis on the contrary, are meagre and unsatisfactory, the spray being given a prominence surprising in the present state of surgery. The excellent abstract on the surgical applications of electricity however is well worth mention. A little carelessness in construction is shown both by the errata inserted in the book, and by clauses such as "if the heart *have stopped*" (p. 14) as well as the deficiencies of the index from which, for example, is omitted any reference to tracheotomy—a subject considered by the authors of sufficient importance to justify the devotion of a considerable portion of a chapter to it. The work is practical and useful as a whole, and well worthy to be the companion of every student and young practitioner.

---

SYNOPSIS OF HUMAN ANATOMY. By JAMES K. YOUNG, M.D., Instructor in Orthopedic Surgery and Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy in

the University of Pennsylvania, etc., Philadelphia, F. A. Davis, 1889.  
12 mo. pp. 393.

This synopsis follows in much the same line as the preceding. It seems to have surpassed all its predecessors in completeness and thoroughness. We have known the book to be of very decided service in its function of assisting in preparation for examinations.

---

**ESSENTIALS OF PATHOLOGY AND MORBID ANATOMY.** With 46 fine illustrations. By C. E. ARMAND SEMPLE, B.A., M.B. Cantab, L.S.A., M.R.C.P. Lond. Physician to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney; Professor of Vocal and Aural Physiology and Examiner in Acoustics at Trinity College, London, etc., etc., Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1889. 12 mo. pp. 160.

**ESSENTIALS OF MATERIA MEDICA, THERAPEUTICS, AND PERScription WRITING.** By HENRY MORRIS, M.D., late Demonstrator Jefferson Medical College; Fellow College Physicians, Philadelphia; Co-Editor Biddle's *Materia Medica*; Visiting Physician to St. Joseph's Hospital, etc., etc. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1889. 12 mo. pp. 250.

We have already expressed a favorable opinion of others of Saunders' Question Compends, of which these works form Nos. 6 and 7. The former is a reprint from English plates and, while a very excellent little work, differs from the others in deviating from the catechistic form. In the latter, Dr. Morris has been peculiarly happy in expression and comprehensive in scope. The book is well up to the times and will be of marked advantage in assisting the student to define his knowledge.

JAMES E. PILCHER.